

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0066] Another embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 15-17. In this embodiment, inner member 111 is slidably received in outer member 112, which have interengaging circular cross-sectional shapes and a common longitudinal axis 146. Inner member 111 preferably has a flange 121 at outer axial end of the member, the flange 121 has teeth for engaging an adjacent vertebra. The inner member includes a tubular part 118 extending from flange 121. The inner member 111 has a series of apertures or slots 151 defining ~~circumferencial~~circumferential bridges 152 therebetween. Orifices 133 similar to orifices 33 are provided in the part 118.